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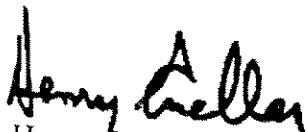
daily floor report

Thursday, January 14, 1999
76th Legislature, Number 3
The House convenes at 10 a.m.

The House will consider the rules for the 76th Legislature today. A summary of proposed rule changes distributed to the members on Tuesday begins on page 2.

Former Secretary of State Al Gonzales, appointed to the Texas Supreme Court by Gov. George W. Bush to replace retiring Justice Raul Gonzalez, will take the oath of office today at 3:30 p.m. in the House Chamber.

Please return your ballot to approve or disapprove the slate of eight members nominated to serve four-year terms on the House Research Organization Steering Committee to the HRO office (E2.180) by 5 p.m. tomorrow.


Henry Cuellar
Chairman

PROPOSED HOUSE RULE CHANGES

The proposed changes in the House Rules for the 76th Legislature, distributed to members on Tuesday, would amend the rules used during the 75th Legislature. The proposed changes are summarized below, with the rules affected and the page numbers of the proposed changes cited in parentheses.

Committee Procedures

A point of order raised for violation of a rule concerning committee reports or minutes or accompanying documentation could be overruled if the purpose of the rule was substantially fulfilled and the violation did not deceive or mislead (Rule 1, sec. 9(c), page 5).

The analyses that must be distributed to committee members before a measure is first considered in committee would no longer be supplied by the author or sponsor or prepared by the committee staff. The newly created Office of Bill Analysis will prepare the analyses, and the proposed rules would require committee staff to distribute copies to committee members (Rule 4, sec. 7, pages 46-47). The Office of Bill Analysis also would prepare the analysis included in committee reports (Rule 4, sec. 32(c), page 61 and Rule 12, sec. 1(a)(1)(B), page 151). The separate sections in the committee report's analysis outlining the background and the purpose of the measure reported would be merged (Rule 4, sec. 32(c)(1), page 61).

Persons recognized to address a committee no longer would have to include on their sworn statement form the business address and the type of business, profession or occupation of the person or entity they represented. Witnesses would list their own business, profession or occupation if they were representing themselves. Also, witnesses no longer would have to include both their home and business addresses on the sworn statement form (Rule 4, sec. 20(a)(2), (4) and (5), page 54).

In committee reports and minutes, legislators specifically would not be listed among those recognized to address a committee (Rule 4, sec. 18(b), page 52 and Rule 4, sec. 32(b)(10), page 60).

Committee Jurisdiction

Committee jurisdiction over state agencies would be revised to delete abolished agencies, add newly created agencies, and reflect agency name changes (Rule 3, pages 19-42). The Public Education Committee's jurisdiction explicitly would include public school finance (Rule 3, sec. 26(1), page 33).

Copies Required to be Filed

Members would file 13, rather than 12, copies of introduced bills with the chief clerk and 15, rather than 14, copies of introduced bills concerning conservation and reclamation districts (Rule 8, sec. 9(a) and (b), page 129).

Deadline for Recording Votes in Journal

On nonrecord votes, the deadline for members to record a “yea” or “nay” vote in the House Journal by filing notice with the journal clerk would be any time before adjournment or recess to another day rather than within one hour after the vote result was announced (Rule 2, sec. 2(1)(N), pages 14-15 and Rule 5, sec. 52, page 90).

Fiscal Notes

A copy of the fiscal note for Senate amendments and conference reports would have to be “made available,” rather than “distributed” or “furnished,” to each member before the House could take action (Rule 13, sec. 5(b), page 156 and Rule 13, sec. 10(c), page 163). The commentary included with the proposed rules notes that members now may access fiscal notes through their laptop computers.

Local, Consent, and Resolutions Calendar

The Local Calendar and the Consent Calendar would be merged into a new Local, Consent, and Resolutions Calendar for any measure that a committee recommended be sent to the Local and Consent Calendars Committee (Rule 6, sec. 7(4),(5), and (6), page 97; sec. 22, page 107; sec. 23, pages 107-108; sec. 24, pages 108-109; Rule 4, sec. 32(b)(7), page 60; and Rule 11 sec. 4, page 145). Simple and concurrent resolutions sent to the Calendars Committee still will be placed on a separate Resolutions Calendar.

Rules involving the separate Local Calendar would be revised. The prohibition against placing on the Local Calendar a bill that limits its application by using population brackets would be eliminated (Rule 6, sec. 23(b), page 108). Rule 8, sec. 10(b) (page 130) still will prohibit committee or House consideration of “bracket” bills. During floor consideration, the chair no longer could withdraw from the Local Calendar a bill that did not fit the definition of a local bill (Rule 6, sec. 14(2), page 102).

News Media

Accredited news media representatives allowed within the railing in the House Chamber would be confined to the area specifically designated for them (Rule 5, sec. 12, page 77). The proposed rules would eliminate the specific requirement that the news media confine their activities within the railing while the House is in session to very brief inquiries, brief nonilluminated photographic contact, and brief contacts to arrange interviews and press conferences with House members. Left unchanged is the prohibition against members engaging in interviews or press conferences on the floor while the House is in session and the House Administration Committee's general authority to prescribe regulations to enforce this provision (Rule 5, sec. 20, page 81).

The House Administration Committee, rather than the speaker, would issue credentials to news media representatives and floor passes to broadcast technicians (Rule 5, sec. 20(c) and (e), pages 81-82).

Privileged Resolution for Technical Corrections

Resolutions authorizing the enrolling clerk to make technical corrections to measures finally acted on by both houses would be privileged. These resolutions would not have to be referred to committee and would be eligible for consideration as soon as introduced in the House or received from the Senate (Rule 10, new sec. 8, page 143).

Congratulatory and Memorial Resolutions

The proposed rules would clarify that the Rules and Resolutions Committee need not report a congratulatory or memorial resolution from committee for it to be placed on a Congratulatory and Memorial Resolutions Calendar (Rule 6, sec. 18, page 105, and sec. 11, page 99).